

IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNANCE

- ❖ **The Board of Nursing supports a model of governance that will most effectively shape and uphold the Mission, articulate a compelling Vision and ensure major decisions and day-to-day activities are guided by core values, beliefs and policies. The Board pursues best practices in governance.**

The governance structure should promote fulfillment of responsibilities and accomplishment of strategic goals and objectives. It should allow for flexibility in modifying and refreshing priority initiatives and operations as the climate and environment shift and change and as mid-course adjustments become necessary.

- ❖ **The Board believes it governs best in close collaboration with the executive director, recognizing their separate but interdependent roles.**

The Board's relationship with the executive director should be based on principles of mutual trust and forthrightness and a common commitment to Mission. The Board, executive director and staff should together face and resolve problems, share insights on pressing issues, discover new ways of reframing challenges and opportunities and generate strategic ideas.

- ❖ **The Board believes fiscal integrity is fundamental to its fiduciary responsibility and to sustaining Board Purpose and Vision**

Fiscal integrity requires Board assurance that financial and other resources are managed efficiently and effectively. The Board should hold the executive director accountable for rigorous compliance with applicable state laws and agency policies while preserving the Director's authority to make independent budget decisions within the limits of approved internal controls and sound risk management.

- ❖ **The Board is committed to devoting the majority of time and energy to matters of substantial consequence, to meaningful discussion of key issues, and to articulation of strategic priorities.**

The Board should reserve for itself responsibility for organizational policy setting and vigorous oversight—for setting organizational course. The Board should delegate responsibility for implementation of Board policies and decisions and management of operations and resources to the executive director.

- ❖ **The Board maintains the Mission is best supported by independent thinking and shared judgment.**

The Board endeavors to function within a culture of inquiry, mutual respect and constructive debate where individual ideas lead to collective decisions. The soundest decisions will result when members rely on thorough deliberation to uncover all facets of an issue and then work together to arrive at an educated opinion. To this end, the

Board is committed to policies and processes that reinforce collaborative decision-making rather than predetermined conclusions.

❖ **The Board strives for processes that protect the privacy of individuals while honoring the right of the public to remain informed.**

The Board must remain cognizant of the extent government practices and outcomes are to be made public. The Board should also recognize the importance of distinguishing between the desire for transparency and the need for confidentiality.

❖ **The Board believes continuous measurement of performance fosters achievement of desired outcomes and demonstrates respect for the public's trust.**

Internal and external appraisal of performance should assist the Board in managing and continually improving effectiveness while ensuring public accountability. On-going Board self-assessment, overall performance measurement and periodic retroactive audit should be designed to protect against unethical behavior and conflict of interest and should serve to assure the Board acts consistently within its own adopted governance policies while mindful of public expectations.

(Adapted in part from: The Source, Twelve Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional Boards, 2005, BoardSource, Washington, DC)

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